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Application Number	09/182,911
Filing Date	October 30, 1998
First Named Inventor	Wilks
Art Unit	2674
Examiner Name	J. Lesperance
Attorney Docket Number	0100.9800830

Total Number of Pages in This Submission

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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Wilks
Serial No.: 09/182,911
Filing Date: October 30, 1998
Confirmation No. 2532

Examiner: J. Lesperance
Art Group: 2674
Our File No.: 00100.98.1269
Docket No.: 0100.9800830

28/Reg for
Reconsideration
3-21-03
JP
Gm

Title: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SUPPORTING MULTIPLE DISPLAYS**

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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

MAR 20 2003

Dear Sir:

Technology Center 2600

This Amendment is being submitted in response to the Office Action dated December 30, 2002 for the above-identified application. Claims 1-3, 7, 9, 19, 23, 27, 28, 30-34, 38 and 40 were rejected. In particular, claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 19, 23, 32, 33, 38 and 40 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 4,990,902 to Zenda (hereafter "Zenda").

Claims 3, 27, 28, 30, 31 and 34 were rejected under §103(a).

Claims 13-18 and 29 were allowed.

Claims 4-6, 8, 10-12, 20-22, 24-26, 35-37, 39 and 41-48 are allowable, if they are re-written to include all of the limitations of the base claim and all intervening claims.

Reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested because, among other limitations, the limitation that requires display parameters to be provided to an operating system, after the parameters of a second display are substituted for the parameters of a first display, is not shown or suggested in any reference. Each of the pending claims is discussed in their numerical order.

Paraphrased, independent claim 1 claims a method for supporting *multiple* displays. The method of claim 1 includes three steps, which include: a) receiving display capability

parameters of a first display device that include at least the display's resolution and pixel depth;
b) substituting the display capabilities of *another* display for the parameters that were received;
and c) providing the "selected" display capabilities, of the other display, to an operating system.
As claimed, the last step of claim 1 makes sense only if the first two steps have been performed.

None of the steps of claim 1 are to be found in Zenda, but of the three claim 1 limitations, the last limitation is indisputably missing from the Zenda reference.

The Examiner cited column 8, lines 43-44 of Zenda as ostensibly teaching the claimed step of providing selected display capabilities to an operating system.

Lines 43-44 of column 8 say *nothing* of providing selected display capabilities to an operating system:

**5. A control system according to claim 4, wherein,
when said display resolution selecting means selects a
display resolution which differs from the display resolu-
45 tion corresponding to the designated set of display tim-**

Merely reciting the words "control system" in the preamble of claim 5 cannot be said to mean "operating system" as recited in the claims nor do lines 43- 44 recite the provision of selected display capabilities to an operating system, *after* receiving capability parameters of a first display and then substituting the display parameters of a second display for the parameters of the first display. (See claim 1.) The Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to identify by column and line number, where Zenda teaches or mentions an operating system as receiving parameters of a display (i.e., a monitor).

Column 4, lines 9- 23 describe the operation of the CRT controller (also referred to as the "CRTC"). The CRT controller receives a display timing signal from the CPU and stores it in the timing register 14. Both the CRT controller and the timing register are hardware – neither of which are related to or related to an operating system.

In Zenda, the CPU first sets a default display mode. This is accomplished by reading a parameter from ROM 5 and writing that value into the timing register 14. (See step 31 of Fig. 8. See also col. 4, lines 46-57.) Second, the CPU "protects the display timing" (See step 33 in Fig.

8. See also col. 4, line 58 – col. 5, line 2). Next, an application program is run. (See step 35 in Fig. 8 and see col. 5, line 3.) Fourth, a display mode command is can be input at the keyboard of the computer. (See step 37 of Fig. 8 and see col. 5, lines 3-12.) As stated in col. 5, lines 4 – 12, display mode can be altered, albeit from the keyboard. If a new display mode is altered (from a keyboard input) new display timing parameters are written into the timing register 14. (See col. 5, lines 13 –17.)

In column 5, lines 45 – 53, Zenda teaches that display timing cannot be altered after an application program runs. Therefore, the parameters of one display cannot be substituted for another display as claimed because the pending claims require that the provision of a selected display be provided to the operating system after the parameters of the first display have been received and then replaced by other parameters of another display.

In a second embodiment described in column 5, lines 54 et seq., a display mode can be altered by way of a keyboard input. A third embodiment described in column 6, lines 46 et seq., teaches that a display mode can be changed by way of a keyboard input.

Nowhere is there any teaching in Zenda that selected display capabilities to an operating system.

Claim 2 further narrows claim 1 by claiming that the parameters to be substituted for the first display are based on a composite of the parameters of all other displays. Although Zenda discusses three (3) different display resolutions, *where* does Zenda teach defining a display capability based on a composite of other displays?

Claim 3 narrows claim 1 by claiming that the selected display parameters are determined according to the capabilities of a graphics card. Assuming *arguendo* that Endes et al., teaches two video cards, the Applicant submits that it does not teach that capabilities of the graphics cards of a computer system are substituted for the capabilities of an attached monitor or display and then sent to an operating system as required by claim 3.

Claims 4-6 were held to be allowable if re-written, however, the Applicant contends that the claims are allowable as-is.

Claim 7 is an apparatus claim to a computer that is comprised of a processor and associated memory. The memory claimed in claim 7 stores instructions that perform the steps recited in claim 1. (Claim 7 might be considered by some to be a so-called “Beauregard” claim.)

Claim 7 should be allowed, as is, for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1. None of the limitations of the claim are in Zenda, but in particular, the last limitation is clearly not shown in Zenda.

Claim 8 was objected to, but for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 2, claim 8 is allowable, as-is.

Claim 9 was rejected under §102(b), ostensibly because Zenda teaches the limitations of claim 9 in column 6, lines 50-53. Claim 9 requires that the display capabilities that are to be substituted (for the capabilities of an associated display) are obtained from a graphics card. The text of Zenda relied upon by the Examiner teaches that display capabilities are determined by the CPU *from the monitor* – not from a video graphics card. Claim 9 should have been allowed.

Claims 10- 12 are allowable as is, for the reasons set forth above with respect to the independent claim 7 upon which they depend.

Claims 13-18 were allowed.

Claim 19 was also rejected under §102(b). Inasmuch as claim 19 also recites the limitation that requires a new display characteristic to be provided to *an operating system, after* receiving parameters for multiple displays, determining the parameters of a selected display and substituting the parameters of a particular display. For the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1, claim 19 is also allowable.

Claims 20 – 22 were held to be allowable if re-written, however, the Applicant contends that these claims are allowable as-is because the claim on which they depend is allowable as-is.

Claim 23 was rejected but is also allowable.

Paraphrased, claim 23 is directed to a computer comprised of a processor and associated memory. When the processor executes the instructions stored in the memory, it performs certain steps that require the receipt of display parameters of several displays; determining display capabilities of all of the displays; substituting also includes the limitation of providing the parameters of a display to be substituted. Finally, the display parameters of at least one display device are provided to an operating system, possibly as replacement parameters.

As set forth above, the Applicant contends that Zenda does not teach any of the claim limitations but in particular, Zenda does not teach an operating system, nor does it teach that an operating system should receive display parameters. Claim 23 is allowable.

Claims 24 –26 are allowable, as-is.

Claims 27 and 28 are allowable as-is for the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1 and 7 respectively.

Claim 29 was allowed.

Claims 30 and 31 were rejected under §103(a) ostensibly because of Zenda in combination with Kotha et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,067,071) The Examiner contends that Zenda teaches all of the limitations of claims 27, 28, 30 and 31 but for a display refresh rate. The Applicant disagrees.

Zenda does not teach pixel depth nor does it teach refresh rate. Using an electronic copy of the Zenda reference available on the U.S. P.T.O. web site, the undersigned found no instance of “pixel” or “depth” or “refresh” anywhere in the Zenda reference. The Applicant therefore respectfully requests the Examiner to explain how he reads Zenda to find “pixel depth” and “display refresh rate.” If the limitations of claims 30 and 31 cannot be found, the claims should be allowed.

Claim 32 was rejected for the same reason as claim 1. For the sake of brevity, the Applicant re-asserts the arguments made for the allowance of claim 1.

Claim 33 was rejected for the same reason as claim 2. For the sake of brevity, the Applicant re-asserts the arguments made for the allowance of claim 2.

Claim 34 was rejected for the same reason as claim 3. For the sake of brevity, the Applicant re-asserts the arguments made for the allowance of claim 3.

Claims 35 –37 were objected to, however, for the reasons set forth above, these claims are allowable as-is.

Claim 38 was rejected for the same reason as claim 7. For the sake of brevity, the Applicant re-asserts the arguments made for the allowance of claim 7.

Claim 39 was objected to but for the reasons set forth above, claim 39 is allowable as is.

Claim 40 was rejected for the same reason as claim 9. For the sake of brevity, the Applicant re-asserts the arguments made for the allowance of claim 9.


Claims 41-48 were objected to, but for the reasons set forth above, claims 41- 48 are allowable as-is.

In conclusion, the Applicant submits that the pending claims are allowable at least because of the limitation that requires provision of display parameters, after the parameters of a

second display have been substituted for the parameters of a first display are obtained.
Reconsideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


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Date: March 14, 2003

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